

APPEARANCE
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Shiites: 11 executed for U.S.-backed bombings

From Inquirer Wire Services

BEIRUT, Lebanon — The radical Shiite Muslim group Hezbollah yesterday announced the execution of nine men and two women, saying they had admitted being involved in 32 bombings purportedly plotted by U.S., Israeli and Lebanese intelligence agencies.

In a statement delivered to news organizations in Beirut, the Hezbollah movement, or Party of God, said the 11 had been involved in a four-year bombing campaign in West Beirut and the port of Tripoli that killed 277 people and wounded 1,111.

The statement from Hezbollah came as Muslim and Christian gunners shelled residential districts across Beirut's Green Line in a civil war flare-up that police said killed four people and wounded 19.

The barrages were fired as a Vatican envoy began making contacts with Lebanese leaders in an effort to revive talks that might end Lebanon's 11-year-old civil war.

The Hezbollah, which is believed to be loyal to Iranian revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, did not reveal when or how the executions were carried out. It did distribute a 68-page account of the alleged confessions, including biographies and photographs of the 11 who it said were executed.

Their alleged attacks included an October 1981 car-bomb explosion outside the Beirut headquarters of the Moscow-oriented Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and a March 1985 car bombing in the Shiite-populated Beir el-Abed suburb.

The 1981 bombing killed 84 people and wounded 225. The Beir el-Abed blast outside the home of Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, the Lebanese Shiites' main spiritual guide, killed 75 people and wounded 256.

The Washington Post reported last year that the Beir el-Abed attack was carried out by Lebanese agents trained by the CIA. The CIA denied the charges.

Hezbollah's list of those executed included the names of several Lebanese officers, among them Col. Simon Kassis, the army intelligence chief, and his top aides. It accused them of directing CIA and Israeli intelligence in Beirut.

The two women were identified as Azzat Sharif Hussein, 21, a Shiite student, and Laure Hajj, 33, a Christian schoolteacher who was said to have worked for the ring together with her husband, Samir. He was among the men reported executed.

In the fighting between Muslims and Christians, the warring militias traded mortar, anti-aircraft and rocket-propelled grenade fire.

Among those killed was a policeman guarding the Parliament building, which stands in no man's land along the three-mile demarcation line that divides Beirut into Christian and Muslim territories. The other three dead were civilians.

The bombardment escalated from sniping duels and sporadic salvos in the morning rush hour. Police reported that two cease-fires were shattered in the clashes, the heaviest across the Green Line in weeks.

Panic-stricken motorists raced off the busy commercial Hamra Street in Muslim West Beirut as sniper fire crackled overhead.

Heavily armed Muslims fanned out through West Beirut after a brief clash between Druse militiamen and Shiite Muslim soldiers.

Yesterday's violence came as the Vatican envoy, Monsignor Luigi Giatti, began talks with Christian leaders. The Christian Voice of Lebanon radio accused Muslim militias of seeking to sabotage the Vatican mis-

sion by shelling East Beirut.

Giatti arrived Sunday and was to meet President Amin Gemayel, who is a Christian, and other leaders in East Beirut. He is also scheduled to hold talks with Prime Minister Rashid Karami, a Sunni Muslim, in West Beirut.

Newspapers said his mission would pave the way for a trip to Lebanon and Syria by the Vatican's foreign minister, Monsignor Achille Silvestrini.